

Appl. No. 10/595,801
Amdt. dated September 4, 2009
Reply to Office action of August 4, 2009

REMARKS

The Action requires election of either apparatus claims 1-14 or method claims 15-24.
Applicants elect apparatus claims 1-14.

The Action further requires election of one of the following species:

Species I, FIGS. 1-6

Species II, FIGS. 7-8

Species III, FIGS. 9-10

Species IV, FIGS. 11-14

Species V, FIG. 15

Applicants elect species III, FIGS. 9-10. In making this election, applicant points out that FIGS. 9 and 10 show a blade holder having an alternative embodiment of the latch, and not just a latch alone. Thus, the characterization of Species III as "an alternate embodiment of the latch" is not construed to mean that the embodiment of FIGS. 9 and 10 is a disembodied latch.

Claims 1-14 as currently amended all read on the elected species of FIGS. 9 and 10.

This election is made without traverse.

Independent method claims 15 and 22 are amended to depend on apparatus claim 7.
Upon allowance of claim 7, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder and allowance of claims 15-24.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account **04-1679**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 4, 2009

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